

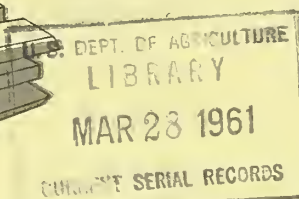
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FOOD

PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

March 6, 1961
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- MEAT.....Moderately larger production of meat is expected this year, also some increase in marketings, due to greater cattle inventories and the expected uptrend in hog production.
- Beef.....The increase of 900,000 head of cattle last year lifted the U.S. cattle inventory to a record high on January 1, 1961. The inventory gain this January was in beef cattle. Beef cow numbers were increased 640,000 head, and milk cows declined 236,000 head, with the increase for all cows totaling 404,000. While steers were up 4 percent, heifers and calves were little changed from the previous year.
- Pork.....Hog slaughter is likely to remain below a year earlier until late this spring. In January, the number of hogs on farms was 6 percent below a year earlier, with gains in sows offsetting part of the decline in other hogs over 6 months old and in pigs under 6 months old.
- Lamb.....This year's crop of lambs will probably run as large as last year since the number of ewes a year old and older showed a gain of 1 percent over the previous year.
- POULTRY:
- Broiler-Fryers...For practically all of the current year, output will continue to exceed 1960 levels. This assumption is based on recent hatchings running ahead of a year earlier, and a buildup in breeder-hen numbers.
- Turkeys.....Early this year farmers announced plans to raise 20 percent more turkeys than last year's record-breaking crop of 82 million birds.
- Eggs.....While monthly production figures are running below a year ago and will likely continue to do so until around mid-year, egg production is rising seasonally.
- DAIRY.....A somewhat greater increase in milk production is expected this year than the 0.9 billion pound gain shown last year over 1959. A contributing factor is the steady increase in the production of milk per cow. Last year's total output was 122.9 billion pounds.
- FRUITS:
- Citrus.....Movement to fresh market and processors especially of oranges and grapefruit, has run seasonally heavy since the first of the year, however, the total quantity marketed to late February was somewhat smaller than a year earlier. This was due mostly to lighter crops and delayed early-season shipping. Tangerines are the main exception, as movement of the much heavier current crop has been larger than in the previous season. In Florida, production of frozen orange concentrate to mid-February was about the same as a year ago. On February 1 cold storage holdings

totalled about 23 million gallons, which was some 10 million gallons below that date a year earlier. Stocks of apples are smaller this season than a year earlier. In frozen fruits, supplies on February 1 stood at around 444 million pounds--4 percent above average for that date and 3 percent higher than a year earlier.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Supplies are likely to be a little smaller this winter than last. Different items, though, may be in better balance than a year ago when severe weather in Florida brought a shortage of most tender vegetables. Compared with last year, indications point to much larger crops of sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, snap beans, eggplant and green peppers, while broccoli is also expected to be in greater supply. But items expected to be in substantially smaller supply are artichokes, carrots, celery and escarole, and cabbage and lettuce supplies will be moderately smaller. Supplies of frozen vegetables available into mid-year are materially larger than a year earlier, and well above average. Frozen green peas, though, are in fairly light supply, and mixed peas and carrots materially below a year ago. Stocks of practically all other major items, however, are moderately to considerably greater than a year earlier. Meanwhile, overall supplies of canned vegetables are moderately below a year ago. Stocks of asparagus, sauerkraut, tomato catsup and chili sauce, pumpkin and squash, and lima beans are larger than a year ago, but supplies of canned green peas, sweet corn and beets are substantially below a year earlier. Supplies of tomatoes and cucumbers for pickles are slightly to moderately smaller.

Potatoes.....Supplies of old crop potatoes are moderately larger than last winter, and production of new crop potatoes for winter harvest is up sharply from the small crop of last winter. Remaining supplies of sweet potatoes are considerably below a year ago.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

Canned Ripe Olive Industry Promotion.....March 1 - April 2

Cranberry Easter Sale.....March 1 - April 15

Easter Turkey Time.....March 15 - April 2

Cereal & Milk Spring Festival.....April 1 - April 30

Honey for Breakfast Week.....April 2 - April 8